

REVIEW

by **Metodii Ivanov Angelov, PhD,**

an Associate Professor in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'

of the works submitted for participation in the competition for occupation of academic position

'**Professor**' in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski',

in Area of Higher Education 8. Arts;

Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts (Painting and Colour Theory)

In the competition for the academic position 'Professor', announced in State Gazette No 96/20.11.2018 and on the web site of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education within the Faculty of Pedagogy, **Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD**, from Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', participates as a candidate.

1. General Presentation of the Received Materials

Subject:

By Order No. P33-1121/05.03.2019 of the Chancellor of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' I was appointed as a member of the Scientific Jury of the competition for occupation of the academic position '**Professor**' in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' in Area of Higher Education: 8. Arts, *Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts (Painting and Colour Theory)*, announced for the needs of the Department of Aesthetic Education within the Faculty of Pedagogy.

Documents for participation in the competition were submitted by **the only candidate** - Associate Professor Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD from Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

The set of materials presented by Assoc. Prof. Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD in paper and electronic format **complies with** the Rules for the Development of the Academic Staff of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' and includes the following papers: 1. *Application to the Chancellor for admission to the competition*; 2. *CV in European format*; 3. *Diploma for Master's Degree*; 4. *Diploma for educational and scientific degree 'Doctor'*; 5. *Diploma (Certificate) for academic position 'Associate Professor'*; 6. *List of scientific works*; 7. *Reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements /Record from the Faculty of Pedagogy - Quality Committee for Research Production/*; 8. *Reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements /prepared by the applicant/*; 9. *Declaration of originality and authenticity of enclosed documents*; 10. *Annotations of the materials, including self-assessment of contributions*; 11. *Annotations of the materials, including self-assessment of contributions in English*; 12. *Copies of the minutes of the Department Council, the*

Faculty Council and the Academic Council related to the competition; 13. *State Gazette containing the competition notice (copy)*; 14. *Document (certificate) for work experience*; 15. *Papers for teaching activity*: academic workload; certificate from Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski', branch 'L. Karavelov', town of Kardzhali for academic workload; other forms of teaching activity; administrative activity; developed curricula; lectures read abroad; supervision of graduates, etc.; 16. *Other documents*: participation in scientific jury and expert groups; participation in editorial boards, compilation of collections, reviews; certificates; 17. *Research papers*: monographs; textbooks and teaching aids; teacher's books; supervision of doctoral students; citations; participation in research projects; two certificates for participation in projects; articles, reports; 18. *Papers for artistic and creative activity*: list of artistic and creative activities (for the period 2003-2018); full-colour album with reproductions; certificates for participation in exhibitions; catalogues from exhibitions; exhibitions reviews; certificates of artistic activity, etc.

The candidate, Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD submitted a total of **57 scientific works**, classified as follows: 2 *monographs; textbooks*: 2 for university students (independent), 2 for school (in co-authorship) *teaching aids*: 1 for university students (in co-authorship), 4 educational books (for kindergarten), 6 teacher's books (2 for secondary school, in co-authorship and 4 for kindergarten, independent) *scientific articles* - 40 (9 in co-authorship, 3 published abroad). All presented materials are different from those, which participated in the procedures for awarding PhD degree and occupation of academic position 'Associate Professor'. From the available 'Reference for compliance with the minimum national requirements' of the applicant, it can be seen that the applicant complies with them.

According to the code of the competition and the specialty, for review are accepted: 10 scientific articles, one textbook for students (Colour Theory Handbook), as well as the proofs of the applicant's artistic and creative activity. All other materials are indirectly related to the professional field, they outline the range of interests, the wealth and quality of the applicant's overall scientific, educational, artistic, creative and administrative activity and are also taken into account in the final assessment.

2. Brief Biographical Data (on the Applicant)

Daniela Todorova Markova was born on 27.08.1961. In 1981, she graduated from the Secondary Specialized School of Arts 'Tsanko Lavrenov', town of Plovdiv, and in 1987 she graduated from the Academy of Arts 'Nikolay Pavlovich' in the city of Sofia, where she got diploma for Master's degree in Fine Arts and a Teaching Qualification. In 1999, she became a Doctor of Phi-

losophy in Methodology of Teaching (Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts). In 2003 she became an Associate Professor in Methodology of Teaching (Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts).

The work experience and career development of D. Markova is mainly in the field of teaching fine arts. In 1988 she was elected for Assistant in Methodology of Teaching Fine Arts in Kindergarten, in 1993, she was elected for Senior Assistant, and in 1994 - for Head Assistant. In 2003 D. Markova became an Associate Professor in Methodology of Teaching (Theory and Methodology of Fine Arts). Except in the field of theory and methodology of fine arts Assoc. Prof. Markova teaches also the academic disciplines Painting and Colour Theory.

3. General Characteristics of the Applicant's Activity

Assessment of the Applicant's Preparation and Educational and Pedagogical Activity

There is many presented evidence for the thoroughness and breadth of the theoretical, scientific and practical pedagogical preparation and activities of the candidate - scientific articles in pedagogical collections and participation in conferences, textbooks and teaching aids, lecture courses, supervision of graduates, successfully defended PhD students, participation in quality education committee, state examination committees, in educational projects, and other similar activities. She *covers the minimum requirements for teaching workload during the academic year* for the position 'Professor': in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' Assoc. Prof. Markova has 120 hours of lectures, 45 of which are specific to the professional field.

In the set of materials proving the teaching activity there are *two textbooks* for students. One of them is directly related to the subject of the competition and it is titled '*Colour Theory Handbook*'; meant for students in the specialities Pedagogy of Teaching Fine Arts and Graphic Design and Advertising. The handbook presents systematically the basic theoretical knowledge about colours and their characteristics, necessary for the students. Attention is paid to depictiveness and expressiveness of colours, optical illusions and other phenomena associated with colours and their practical use in the process of depiction. There are also 36 tasks designed for better understanding of the properties of colours and their use in artistic creative activity.

The other textbook, '*Methodological Aspects of Decoupage*', is aimed primarily at students in pedagogical specialties. In addition, 2 fine arts textbooks for primary school respectively with 2 teacher's books (for the 1st and 2nd grade) in co-authorship are presented, as well as 4 independent educational books and 4 teacher's books for the different groups in kindergarten.

With regard to *the practical pedagogical and teaching activity*, in the period 2003 - 2019, Assoc. Prof. Markova developed over 20 training courses for students; annually took part in various

state examination committees at the University; supervised 54 graduates; advised three successfully defended doctoral students; participated in two major educational projects (Student Practices, 2012-2014 and 2016-2018); in 2016 she *read lectures* abroad (Kielce, Poland). *The artistic and creative work with students* is related to the organization of two student exhibitions in 2013 and 2016. Assoc. Prof. Markova was assigned a number of *responsible administrative activities, related to the quality assurance in the education process*: Chairman of the Quality Committee of the Faculty, (three mandates from 2008 until now); member of the Evaluation and Accreditation Committee of the University (2018); constant participation in accreditation procedures and accreditation committees for preparation of self-assessment reports and many others. The impressive quantitative evidence of teaching activity, as well as the seriousness of the responsibilities assigned in the area of quality of education administration speak for Assoc. Prof. Markova's high level of pedagogical preparation and for the trust that the Pedagogical Faculty places in her.

In conclusion, from the analysis of the presented evidence for the educational and pedagogical activity, it can be said that Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova has *a high level of scientific preparation, extensive professional education and extensive experience in the field of theory and practical training* in various academic disciplines related to fine arts, painting and colour theory, as well as experience in administration of quality in the teaching process.

Assessment of the Applicant's Scientific and Applied Research Activity

To the evidence of the scientific activity, the applicant presented *2 monographs* and *40 scientific articles and reports*, published in scientific journals, collections and conferences. 36 of these are in Bulgarian, 4 in foreign language (3 in English and 1 in Russian). Three articles are published in specialized journals abroad, and one article is published in a referenced and indexed edition in a world-known scientific database. She has 30 own articles and papers, and 10 in co-authorship.

Directly related to the code and the specificity of the competition are *10 scientific articles and reports* (under No. 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 20, 24, 27, 32 in the list), as in 3 of them Assoc. Prof. Markova deals with the most specific issues related to the academic disciplines Colour Theory and Painting (No. 5, 13, 18) and the other 7 deal with more general issues related to the teaching of these disciplines. Six scientific articles and reports more, which are not directly related to the specialty, but with a tolerable extension to the professional field, may be referenced (under No. 6, 15, 22, 31, 34 and 46). Thematically, they refer to the theory and psychology of fine arts or to the training of students in arts in general.

From the presented materials, which are taken into account in the assessment, the professional education and scientific preparation of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD is revealed, as well as her

ability to draw and define the problems in painting and colour theory training, to adapt them to students' level and needs, as well as to offer relevant pedagogical and creative solutions.

The other part of the scientific papers presented for the competition can be taken into account as *indirect evidence in the assessment*. Among them, besides the two monographs, are also most of the articles and papers, which focus mainly on the specific character of her work with students from the specialities in which she teaches, most of which relate to the theory and methodology of teaching fine arts.

Although they are taken indirectly into the assessment, the two monographs reveal the applicant's depth of research. In the monograph 'Diagnostic Opportunities of the Child's Drawing', we find a systematic presentation of various tests including drawing with the relevant application instructions. Tests are subjected to critical analysis, which is one of the merits of this scientific work. This work can be used in fine arts training, art therapy and psychodiagnostics.

There is an interesting and unusual point of view in the monograph 'The Art of Seeing'. The work is more of a psychological and even mystical research in the field of transpersonal psychology, the problems in it are rather distant and we can only indirectly refer them to the scientific specialty of the competition (painting and colour theory). In a broader sense, however, this work has a connection with the psychological aspects of fine arts and arts because it has a bearing on the perception and states of consciousness as a factor of creativity. Particular attention is paid to the altered states of consciousness and their relation to creativity, which is one of the merits and contributions of this scientific work. It would be of interest not only to people and researchers in the field of arts, but also to a wide range of readers interested in the issues of spirituality and creativity.

In summary, besides the two monographs, articles and papers (24 works), which also have an indirect relation to the specifics of the competition, reveal the breadth of scientific interests and support the impression about Assoc. Prof. Markova's high level of pedagogical preparation. They deal with issues related to the field of theory and methodology of teaching fine arts in the kindergarten, general pedagogical issues, as well as the application of fine arts in art therapy.

The scientific level and activity of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD can be judged also by other presented evidence; for the period 2004-2018 she participated in 11 research projects, managing two of them; participated 14 times in a scientific jury for awarding of the academic degree Doctor or for taking an academic position; she was a member of the Expert Group for Program Accreditation in Area of Education 8.2. Arts, 3 times; participated in editorial boards, in compilation of scientific collections or as a reviewer of scientific papers 8 times.

Reviewer's Opinion

The evidence presented by Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD, related to her scientific activity, outlines the wide range of interests in the Professional Field 8.2. Fine Arts, as well as the range of her scientific search. They extend from the field of painting and colour theory, go through the theory of fine arts, encompass the theory and methodology of teaching fine arts and go to the vast field of psychology and spiritual states.

In the proposed scientific papers, which are closely related to the professional field and the specialty, as well as those which we indirectly take into account in the review, Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD demonstrates the ability to recognize the issues related to teaching fine arts systematically, analytically and to consider them in various ways, as well as to offer appropriate solutions for their overcoming. The subject covers a logical and a cognitive field, necessary not only for teaching the subjects Painting and Colour Theory, but also for a considerably wider range of disciplines in the professional field. Wide range of interests in the field of fine arts, psychology, pedagogy, and in spirituality in general are prerequisites for interdisciplinary relations in her research papers and for offering new, unconventional ideas and solutions to some otherwise routine problems in the field of teaching fine arts.

Contributions and Citations

Contributions from the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD are mainly of scientific and applied research character, as part of the ideas and practical solutions that the candidate offers can be used in the process of teaching fine arts in different stages of education, and as for kindergarten, they have already been implemented and have found practical application.

I consider the original approach and methodical presentation of ideas related to perception and creativity in the monograph 'The Art of Seeing', a contribution that is particularly valuable to the professional field concerned, albeit indirect to the narrow scientific speciality. In this scientific work, a new perspective emerges to reflect on visual perception and creative inspiration. None the less useful, in practical terms, is the scientific contribution of the other monograph.

The significance of the scientific works of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD can be judged also by citations - her works are cited 45 times - 25 times in scientifically reviewed monographs and 20 times in non-refereed publications.

With the evidence presented, the candidate covers the quantitative indicators for occupation of the academic position 'Professor', even exceeds many of them. In professional and scientific circles,

especially in teaching fine arts in the kindergarten, Assoc. Prof. Markova, PhD is a recognizable author.

Assessment of the Artistic and Creative Activity of the Applicant

In the documents for the competition, for the period 2003-2018, Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD presents an impressive list of her participation in regional, national and several international art exhibitions (a total of 55). She is an author with distinguishable picturesque style that makes an impression. As for painting, her works are filled with fresh colour and colorful, saturated and often contrasting colours, she uses an emphatically decorative approach with linear geometric symbols that enhances the expressiveness and figurativeness of the work. In many of her works, possessing mysterious incompleteness and associativeness, there is a sense of spiritual purity and mysticism. Over time, she has built her own style, which emits tenderness, nostalgia and especially romantic influence.

The intensive creative activity of Assoc. Prof. Markova and the pictorial achievements in her works complement her image not only as a scientist working in the field of teaching fine arts but also as a *painter who has something to give to fine arts and to her students* - such as creative work, personal example, knowledge and skills.

4. Assessment of the Applicant's Personal Contribution

From the examination and the analysis of the presented evidence for the scientific and artistic production of the candidate, I find that ***there is no plagiarism and that they are the original work of the author***. I believe that the contributions I indicate as real in the above-mentioned scientific works and artworks ***are work of the applicant and are her personal merit***.

5. Critical Notes and Recommendations

My critical notes regarding the evidence presented are related to the comparatively small number of scientific developments specifically and directly related to the narrow scientific specialty - painting and colour theory.

My recommendations to Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD are directed towards the creation of monographic work in which to use her entire scientific and artistic potential - to integrate the insights and conclusions she reached in the monograph 'The Art of Seeing' with her practical creative skills which we discover in her artworks - in the direction of clarifying the issues of inspiration and artwork.

6. Personal Impressions

I have known Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD since her appointment in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' as an Assistant and for the period of about 30 years I have been deeply convinced in some of her personal qualities and merits that have left a very positive impression in me: humility, ethics in the relations with colleagues, diligence, diverging interests, enabling her to take an interdisciplinary approach where it is needed. I assess Assoc. Prof. Markova as a valued professional, colleague and person.

CONCLUSION

The papers and materials submitted by Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD **meet all the requirements** of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (DASRBA), the Rules for its implementation, and the relevant Rules of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski'.

The candidate in the competition submitted **a significant** number of scientific papers published after the materials used for the defense of the educational and scientific degree 'Doctor' and acquisition of the academic position 'Associate Professor'. Regardless of the relatively small number of presented works in the narrow scientific speciality, the overall presentation of the candidate in the professional field 8.2. Fine Arts is impressive, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, which we find in the evidence material. For this reason, my final comprehensive assessment of the overall scientific, artistic, educational and administrative activities is **positive**.

The candidate's works have original scientific and applied contributions that have been recognized in professional circles. Many of the theoretical developments have practical applicability, and some of them are directly oriented towards teaching. **The scientific and teaching qualification of Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova, PhD are unquestionable.**

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Markova's educational and research activities **are fully in line** with the specific requirements of the Faculty of Pedagogy, adopted in connection with the Rules of Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' for the implementation of the DASRBA.

After studying the materials and scientific papers presented for the competition, and after analyzing their significance and scientific, applied research and applied contributions, I find it reasonable to give my **positive assessment** and **recommend** to the Scientific Jury to prepare a report-proposal to the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Pedagogy for the election of Assoc. Prof.

Daniela Todorova Markova, PhD for the academic position '**Professor**' in Plovdiv University 'Paisii Hilendarski' in Professional Field 8.2 Fine Arts (Painting and Colour Science).

24.04.2019

Reviewer:

/Assoc. Prof. Metodii Angelov, PhD/